THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (d) A contract was signed with M/s Rosoboronexport, Russia on 14.7.2006 for the acquisition of three stealth frigates. The cost of each ship is USD 332 million (equivalent to Rs. 1482.38 crore @ 1 USD=Rs. 44.65). These ships are scheduled to be delivered in 2011-2012.

The ships would be fully equipped according to navy's staff requirements. They are different from INS Prahar which was smaller than these ships and of a different type. The decision to induct the three ships was based on the experience of navy gained in terms of reliability and dependability of the three stealth frigates already inducted.

Ban on mobile phones in offices

†890. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned carrying of mobile-cum-camera phones in offices including I.B. considered sensitive from security view point; and

(b) if so, the number of offices identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) and (b) In the Ministry of Defence, according to the existing instructions of the various services and departments, carrying of Mobile Phones with camera is not permitted in the office premises of the Defence Headquarters Security (DHQ) zone, Units/formation Headquarters/Establishment of the Army; Technical Area/Headquarters of the Air Force; Defence High Security zones of the Navy and the Laboratories and Establishments of the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO).

Purchase of Warships from Russia

891. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to purchase three more 4000 tonnes warships from Russia;

(b) if so, the details regarding the configuration and advantages of these warships; and

(c) the details regarding the technical advantages of these warships, which would imporve our Naval power and how much this deal will cost?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) to (c) The Government has approved acquisition of three stealth frigates with state-of-the-art equipment and associated package from Russia. The frigates are expected to be delivered during 2011-2012. The induction of these platforms would appreciably augment the power of the Indian Navy.

Increase in cross-border infiltration in J & K

†892. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of cross-border infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir have increased since sometime ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of infiltrators captured and killed by the para military forces in the incidents which took place during the last six months; and

(d) the details of injured and killed personnel of the army and para military forces in said incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 299 terrorists are estimated to have infiltrated till June 30, 2006 as compared to 92 in the corresponding period of last year.

(c) and (d) Till June 30, 2006, 43 infiltrators have been killed and one captured by the security forces. In said incidents, 2 security force personnel have been killed and 10 others injured.

Shortage of Helicopters in Military

†893. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of helicopters in the military which can fly on excessive high altitude and in minimum temperature; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing such helicopters to the military so far, and by when more helicopters are proposed to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) and (b) The Army is currently using Cheetah helicopters for reconnaissance and observation at high altitude and low temperatures. However, these are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.